



MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 26

Safety Bulletin

No. 21

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Photo of the Week

SPARE ME

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Here's a cute little novelty. The owner of this vehicle replaced the real spare tire with a pint sized replica. I guess it's kinda funny. But let's see how hard the owner laughs when he gets a flat.

While this may not pose an immediate hazard, it has the potential to become one. Sure he might be lucky enough to get a flat when it's convenient. But Murphy's law dictates that the *thump, thump, thump* of a flat tire will occur when he's late picking up a kid from ball practice, or at night, or on a deserted stretch of the Mojave desert.

Take your vehicle's emergency equipment seriously. And now that we're on the subject, do you have an emergency kit in your car? You know, the little box in your trunk with flares, flashlight, jumper cables, a blanket, first-aid kit, and maps. If not, you ought to make one and customize it based on where you live. You'll thank me when you really need it.

WEEKLY SAFETY FLAGALL

11 - 19 Jan 2004

On Duty Ground:

040112 LCpl, 1st Bn, 12th Mar, 3d MarDiv. SNM suffered an open fracture to his left hand when it was inadvertently pinned between two MK48-14 LVS vehicles. SNM was assisting another Marine in a maintenance function at the time of the incident. SNM was transported to Tripler Army Medical Center where he underwent surgery to repair the open fracture

Aviation: NONE

Off Duty:

040119 Pvt, VMGR-252, MAG-14, 2D MAW. SNM was the driver of a POV that was struck in an intersection by a POV driven by a civilian who was under the influence of alcohol and narcotics, as a result of the accident **SNM was killed**. The civilian driver left the scene and was later apprehended by Anderson County Police. The driver has been charged with DWI, hit and run, and possession of illegal drugs.

040117 MGySgt, Support Co., AAS Bn. While driving his motorcycle, with his wife on the back, SNM came around a blind corner to find an oncoming vehicle in his lane. SNM could not avoid the vehicle so he laid his motorcycle down. As a result, he struck his head on a curb. **SNM and his wife were wearing helmets**. SNM was medevac'd by air to the Palomar Medical Center. SNM has not regained consciousness since the accident.

040117 Two (2) LCpl's, 2D Tank BN, 2D MARDIV. Marines were injured in a single car accident. Both LCpl's are underage and were consuming alcohol. **Both LCpl's were wearing their seatbelts** when the driver lost control of the vehicle, left the roadway, and rolled several times. The driver suffered minor injuries and was treated and released. The passenger suffered a lumbar fracture. The driver of the vehicle has been charged with underage drinking, speeding, and DUI.

040115 SGT, RS Los Angeles, CA. SNM was involved in a single car accident in Eagle Rock, CA. SNM was a passenger in the vehicle and asleep at the time of the accident. SNM suffered internal injuries and lost consciousness for a short period of time.

040115 LCpl, MALS-26, MAG-26. SNM was injured in a single motor vehicle accident in Jacksonville, NC. While on liberty and driving on Highway 17, the LCpl lost control of his privately owned vehicle. The accident occurred one mile south from the MCAS New River main gate. His vehicle veered off the roadway and rolled over several times. He was ejected from the vehicle and it is unknown if the seatbelt was worn. He received multiple injuries which included head trauma, two broken ribs, and possible damage to the spleen.

040112 Cpl, MALS-39. While inspecting a .40 cal. handgun, with a fellow Marine at an off-base residence, SNM initially found the weapon to be unloaded and placed it on a table. Unbeknownst to SNM, the pistol was later picked up by another Marine who inserted a loaded magazine. Not realizing that the weapon was loaded, SNM picked up the pistol and proceeded to take it apart. In doing so, he chambered a round and pulled the trigger while holding the pistol by its slide. As a result, SNM was shot in his right hand.

040111 Three (3) LCpl's, MWCS-38. All three Marines were traveling on I-8 in the same vehicle when the driver made a wrong turn and drove into oncoming traffic which resulted in a head-on collision. Two of the Marines (the driver and a passenger) were transported to the Sharpe Memorial Hospital via ambulance. The driver received 20 stitches to his head and was discharged. The other injured Marine received 10 to 15 staples and stitches from his eyebrow to his ear and was likewise discharged from the hospital. The third Marine who was also a passenger in the vehicle was not injured.

Driving Safely in Winter Weather

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Many accidents could be avoided if drivers took time to learn and practice these tips for driving safely during snowy and icy conditions.

Perhaps the deadliest danger of all is "black ice." Black ice is ice, which forms on a roadway, usually due to snow melting, and re-freezing. Since it is almost invisible, drivers fail to recognize black ice conditions and may drive at normal speeds-often resulting in very serious accidents. Always be alert to the possibility of black ice when temperatures are near or below freezing. Pavement that looks dry but appears darker in color and dull-looking should alert you to the presence of black ice.

Failing to allow yourself enough time to stop is a major cause of winter driving accidents. During slippery conditions stopping distances can triple. Driving at a slower speed, anticipating stops at traffic lights and intersections, and applying brakes sooner than normal will help ensure accident-free stops. When braking, brake carefully with short, rapid application of the brakes. Always allow plenty of extra space between you and other vehicles to minimize the need for quick stops.

Acceleration, turning, and passing also present dangers during winter. Accelerate slowly to avoid loss of traction and subsequent loss of control. Turn slowly, with caution, to avoid sliding into a stationary object or the path of an oncoming vehicle. Avoid sudden movements. Pass with care because passing lanes are not maintained as well as driving lanes. Again, leave extra space between yourself and other vehicles so there's room to maneuver in case something goes wrong. During a skid, steer cautiously in the direction you want the car to go.

Here are some other tips you should remember for driving safely in winter:

- Always use your seatbelt.
- Turn on your headlights during adverse weather conditions. Overcast skies and falling snow limit visibility. It is important to see and be seen.
- Like all the signs say, bridges and overpasses freeze before the roadway. Use extra caution on these.
- Remember that driving in winter weather conditions causes physical and mental fatigue and reduces reaction times. Get plenty of rest and adequate nutrition. Don't drive while you're sleepy or on medication that causes drowsiness.
- Prepare your vehicle well ahead of time. Check fluid levels, tire pressure, lights, and the battery. Have a mechanic give your vehicle a winter check-up and make any necessary repairs.
- Stock an emergency kit containing heavy clothes and a blanket, traction material such as sand or kitty litter, tire chains, a small shovel, first aid kit, flashlight, jumper cables, and a bright cloth to use as a flag.

Drive focused. Stay safe. And keep America safe on the roadway.

Second Time's the Charm

2003 Darwin Award Nominee

(16 March 2003, Michigan) Ignoring Coast Guard warnings, David Manley ventured onto the icy surface of Saginaw Bay with his pickup truck one chilly morning. Predictably, the vehicle broke through the ice, but the 41-year-old managed to avert tragedy and escape from the sinking truck. He reached the shore wet and cold, but alive. Despite his traumatic experience, and despite a day of sunshine and warm temperatures in the 60s, David returned to Saginaw Bay late the following night. This time he was driving an all-terrain vehicle, and accompanied by a friend. Surprise! The ATV also plunged through the ice. His companion survived, but David had used up his luck. His body was recovered by the Coast Guard southwest of the Channel Islands. An autopsy was scheduled to determine whether anything besides a desire to win a Darwin Award was a factor in his demise.

"It's not getting any smarter out there. You have to come to terms with stupidity, and make it work for you." Frank Zappa

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY COURSES DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: Feb 11
Place: AS-212, Room 121A
Time: 0730-1600 (first 25 Marines, so be early)

REMEDIAL DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: Feb 13
Place: AS-212, Room 121A
Time: 0730-1130

Motorcycle BASIC RIDER COURSE (23 hours)

Fri 1700-2200 and 0700-1700 Sat and Sun.
Jan 23-25, 31- 02 Feb.
(Classes are held at Camp Johnson, call 938-6294 for details)

Motorcycle EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (11 hours)

The experienced rider must have an endorsement on his drivers license.
Fri 1700-2200 and Sat 0700-1300.
March 5-6.

No permit is required to take the course at CCCC; however, an endorsement or proof of purchase/ownership is required to receive a voucher for the MCAS Safety Office to pay for the class. The Marine must present his driver license and ID card to receive the voucher. If the Marine has a motorcycle endorsement, he will need to take the experienced rider course. The phone number at Coastal for registration is 938-6294.